

Message Text

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15

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 L-03 AID-20 IGA-02 OMB-01

TRSE-00 MC-02 DRC-01 /118 W
----- 043763

R 061140Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 221

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

SECDEF WASHDC

CINCPAC

CNO

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 2775

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CE, US, UK

SUBJ: PURCHASE OF SHIP BY SRI LANKA NAVY

REF COLOMBO 2552 STATE 203115

1. DCM ORALLY CONVEYED US RESPONSE (PARA 5 COLOMBO 2552) TO
GSL 3 AUG AIDE-MEMOIRE TO MDFA DIRECTOR OF WEST AFFAIRS
BALASUBRAMANIAM NOV 5.

2. BLASUBRAMANIAM WAS DISAPPOINTED. HE SAID, OF FOUR POSSIBLE
SOURCES, FRENCH HAD THEMSELVES ADVISED GSL NOT TO BUY SHIP
THEY HAD TO OFFER AND BRITISH HAD COME UP WITH SHIP MUCH TOO
OLD. TIME HAD COME FOR SRI LANKA TO MAKE DECISION. WITH US RE-
SPONSE NOW RECEIVED, GSL WOULD BE "FORCED" TO PURCHASE SOVIET
SHIP, WHICH WAS PROFERRED ON EASY PAYMENT TERMS. (HE INDICATED
THAT THOUGH SOVIETS WERE PUSHING TWO SHIPS, GSL WOULD IN ANY
EVENT NOT BUY MORE THAN ONE). BALASUBRAMANIAM REPEATED THAT
GSL PREFERRED TO STICK WITH WESTERN EQUIPMENT BUT HAD TO HAVE
SHIP SOON. HE ASKED THAT EVERY ATTEMPT BE MADE TO IDENTIFY
SUITABLE US VESSEL QUICKLY.

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3. DCM POINTED OUT THAT, EVEN IF US SHIP WERE FOUND, OUTLOOK FOR SALE TERMS FEASIBLY FOR SRI LANKA WAS DEFINITELY NOT PROMISING. BALASUBRAMANIAM AGAIN REFERRED TO GSL'S DIFFICULT ECONOMIC AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE POSITION, TO WHICH DCM SUGGESTED THAT IN CIRCUMSTANCES GSL MIGHT WISH CONSIDER REVIVING PAK-ISTANI OFFER TO OVERHAUL GAJABAHU. GAJABAHU WAS DECREPIT, BALASUBRAMANIAM SAID, REITERATING WISH FOR ANOTHER SEARCH BY USG.

4. DCM AGREED TO RELY HIS REQUEST TO WASHINGTON.
VAN HOLLEN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY SALES, NAVAL SHIPS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973COLOMB02775
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: COLOMBO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731153/aaaabmub.tel
Line Count: 72
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Review Comment: n/a
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Review Date: 26 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26-Dec-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <23-Jan-2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: PURCHASE OF SHIP BY SRI LANKA NAVY
TAGS: PFOR, CE, US, UK
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005